

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Office of Fire and Aviation  
3833 South Development Avenue  
Boise, Idaho 83705

March 1, 2004

In Reply To:  
9215 (FA-320) I

EMS Transmission 03/01/04  
Instruction Memorandum No. OF&A 2004-010  
Expires: 9/30/05

To: State Directors  
  
From: Director, Office of Fire and Aviation  
  
Subject: Certification of Agency Chainsaw Operators

**Program Area:** Fire Training and Qualifications

**Purpose:** To provide the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) fire program policy for training and certification of chainsaw operators.

**Policy/Action:** This Instruction Memorandum (IM) issues policy from the Director, Office of Fire and Aviation (OF&A) regarding the training and certification of chainsaw operators. The BLM chain sawyer operator certification process and task book for the faller positions are provided in Attachment #1 and Attachment #2, respectively.

BLM employees who are chainsaw operator trainees, or who have lost chainsaw operator currency for any of the faller positions, must complete the training and certification requirements established by this IM.

BLM employees who are qualified and current in any of the faller positions will retain their qualifications based on previous BLM direction. These employees are not required to complete the additional training and certification requirements established by this IM.

**Timeframe:** Effective immediately.

**Budget Impact:** None

**Background:** The BLM has lacked a consistent policy regarding the type of training, level of review, and documentation process to be used for the full range of chainsaw operations. BLM Handbook 9213-1, *Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Management 2004*, Page

14-6 (H) contains standards for basic (Level A) chainsaw operators. This IM establishes training and certification standards for all levels of chainsaw operators.

**Manual/Handbook Sections Affected:** BLM Handbook 9213-1, *Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Management 2004*, Page 14-6 (H).

**Contact:** Questions should be addressed to Kurt La Rue at (208) 387-5439.

**Union:** All offices with a union are required to make notification of this action to the union representatives.

Signed by:  
Larry E. Hamilton  
Director  
Office of Fire and Aviation

Authenticated by:  
Pat Lewis  
Supervisory Mgmt. Asst.  
Office Services

2 Attachments:

- 1 – BLM Chain Sawyer Operator Certification Process (1p)
- 2 – Task Book for the Positions of Faller Class A, B, and C (44pp)

Distribution:

Fire Program Advisor, WO, FA-101  
BLM ADs  
OF&A Management Team  
Jim Glenn, Fire Management Training, FA-330  
Larry Sutton, BLM Program, FA-331  
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